

0096-45

MILLRY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

P.O. Box 45  
Millry, Alabama 36558  
(334) 846-2911

April 3, 1997

EX PARTE ON LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

EX PARTE ON LATE FILED

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I urge you to adopt the recommendations submitted to you in an ex parte of March 26 by the state members of the Federal-State Joint Board. That ex parte urges the FCC to adopt the February 13, 1997 Rural Telephone Company Transition Plan proposed by the United States Telephone Association and the Rural Telephone Coalition.

The Joint Board recommendation would freeze federal universal service support, which is essential for maintaining affordable telephone rates, at past investment levels on a per line basis for rural telephone companies. This freeze would chill any incentive for rural telephone companies to invest in new infrastructure and would cause severe damage to economic development in rural communities throughout the nation. The effect also could cause local rates to increase. For instance, companies with commitments to upgrade infrastructures, or under a state mandate to do so, will have to request rate increases in order to maintain financial stability.

The Joint Board recommendation would also cut off support for most business lines and all second residences or second lines in residences in high cost areas. This cut off would mean an immediate and significant decrease in the amount of universal service support these consumers' lines receive. Negative consequences of this proposal include:

- significantly higher cost of Internet usage for rural households and businesses that use a second line for their computer hookup;
- increased prices for telecommunications services, so vital as an incentive for businesses to locate or remain in rural areas;
- administrative nightmares in attempting to figure out which lines fit in the supported versus an unsupported category.

It is essential that the FCC encourage investment in, and maintain affordable access to modern telecommunications services for all Americans, not just the high-end users. Your support for a fair universal service transition plan for rural telephone companies and rural consumers is vital to the future rural economic development of Alabama.

Sincerely,



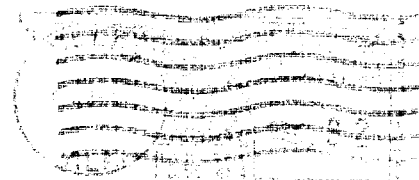
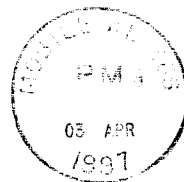
Bobby Williams  
General Manager

cc: FCC Commissioners: Rachelle Chong, Susan Ness, James Quello

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MILLRY TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

P.O. Box 45  
Millry, Alabama 36558



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THE HONORABLE REED HONDT, CHAIRMAN  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
1919 M ST., NW, ROOM 814  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554



*Carrollton City Schools*

DR. RONNIE A. WILLIAMS  
Superintendent

Post Office Box 740  
Carrollton, Georgia 30117  
(770) 832-9633  
FAX # (770) 834-9950

B.J. SAWYER  
Associate Superintendent

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W. Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 9645

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to encourage your support of ensuring access to the Internet that is affordable for school systems. As Superintendent of a school system which is known for its commitment to the infusion of technology into the instructional program, I urge you to support the implementation Telecommunications Act and The Federal-State Joint Board discount plan. It is my understanding that this plan would provide significant discounts to schools so that access to the Internet and Distance Learning would be affordable to all schools.

I assure you that in Carrollton this plan would facilitate our ability to expand our use of technology as an instructional tool. We have over 1,500 computers for our 3,500 student body and believe we must infuse technology into the everyday learning of our students. Your support of a plan to include internal classroom connections to the Internet is vital to our success. Our budget cannot afford the expensive line charges we now incur.

Please help us and other school systems committed to the use of technology to better prepare our students for the 21st century. I strongly urge your support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service to schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ronnie A. Williams  
Superintendent

RAW:kb

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

515 281-5211

TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR

March 31, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: FCC Docket No. 96-45 Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

I am writing to ask for your support for modification of the Joint Board's Universal Service transitional recommendation. Freezing federal universal service support at past investment levels on a per line basis for rural telephone companies will forestall universal service goals in rural states.

Implementation of the proposed plan will remove an incentive for rural telephone companies to invest in new infrastructure. Without continued support, rural Iowa telephone companies will require significant additional investment on a per customer basis resulting in rate increases.

By freezing support at past investment for high-cost rural states, there will develop a disparate situation between the information haves and have-nots. Telecommunications services are a vital incentive for business and individuals to locate or remain in rural states. These services should be available and at reasonable prices. Lack of federal support for second lines to residences will increase the costs for access to the Internet for rural users.

The future of telecommunications and economic development in rural Iowa depends on continued support for rural telephone companies and their rural customers. I urge you to support the attached plan sponsored by four national telecommunications trade associations representing rural interests. The trade associations' plan would allow rural telephone companies to invest in the infrastructure knowing that high-cost areas will receive sufficient support. Without this continued support, many rural customers will be relegated to the existing infrastructure and to the level of information have-nots.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terry E. Branstad".

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor of Iowa

Attachment

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# Illinois Prairie District Public Library

## -HEADQUARTERS-

Box 770  
208 East Partridge Street  
Metamora, Illinois 61548-0574  
Telephone 367-4594 - Area Code 309  
FAX 367-2687

EX PARTE OR DATE FILED

SAN 340 - 515X

Grant A. Fredericksen, Director

April 3, 1997

Honorable Reed Hundt -Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW - Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools - and- ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Grant A. Fredericksen  
Director

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